under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 and the guidelines evolved by it from time to time. As per the information available the present price control policy is not preventing the entry of the new drugs.

(b) and (c) A Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Adviser, Planning Commission was constituted to explore options other than price control to make available life saving drugs at reasonable prices. The Task Force has submitted its report to the Government on the 20th September, 2005. Task force has suggested in one of its recommendation to prepare a new Act namely; Drugs and Therapeutics (Regulation) Act for price control of drugs and controlling drug prices through DPCOs under Essential Commodities Act 1955 should be discontinued as soon a such Drugs and Therapeutics (Regulation) Act comes in force.

The Government in consultation with various stakeholders is examining the recommendations of the Task Force. Based on this a decision will be taken on this issue.

(d) The successive drug policies of the Government are directed towards the goal of making the drugs available at reasonable prices. The Government in consultation with various stakeholders will announce the New Pharmaceuticals Policy shortly.

Revival of Durgapur Fertilizer Plant

3386. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to reports on the revival plan of Durgapur Fertilizer Plant with assured gas supply from GAIL;

(b) If so, the salient features of the revival plan;

(c) whether Government are considering the same; and

(d) if so, the expected time schedule to restart the plant?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) (a) to (c) Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFCL) has sent

a proposal for setting up a gas based brown field fertilizer plant at its Durgapur unit.

(d) The time frame will depend on the availability of gas and techno-economic viability of the proposal.

Ensuring affordability of essential drugs

3387. SHRI VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has directed after the year 2002 to ensure availability and affordability of essential drugs;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken for the above;

(c) the medicines from the list of essential drugs kept under the span of price control list of medicine;

(d) whether there is any proposal to develop different models to regulate prices of different category of drugs;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether there is any proposal to create a separate list of medicines for hospital supply that would not be subject to any price control; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) (a) to (g) The Government announced the 'Pharmaceutical Policy 2002' in February 2002. However, a public interest litigation filed in the High Court of Karnataka at Bangalore resulted in an Order dated 12-11-02, which stopped the Government from implementing the price control regime of the Pharmaceutical Policy 2002. This Department filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) before the Supreme Court of India against the Order of the Karnataka High Court, which has been admitted as SLP (C) No. 3668/ 2003. The Supreme Court *vide* its order dated 10.3.2003 directed the Government, *inter-alia,* that, "we suspend the operation of the order to the extent it directs that the Policy dated 15.2.2002 shall not be implemented. However we direct that the petitioner shall consider and formulate appropriate criteria for ensuring essential and life saving drugs not to fall